True Religion

before our God

Jas.1:27,Pure religion and undefiled is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

What a wonderful sunday school lesson we had this a.m.!

James, the practical man.

To James, unless religion is applied and practice it is useless and foolishness.

Swift to hear, slow to speak.
A restrained temper.
A clean heart
Doers of the word.
Control of tongue
The fruits of pure religion.

The text.

James a typical Jew- thot and spoke in ~~figures~~ pictures. The nut and kernel. The pecific (fatherless and widows) but examples of the general. Xn service and purity.

I. Christian Service.

1. The minister's testimony at the bier of Bryan

2. Margaret Gaffney, the "Orphan's Friend" of New Orleans.

3. A young woman named Maxwell of Kansas City. Started a book-blacking business. Soon income more than from teaching. Surplus used to help the poor of city.

II. Personal purity. Only the pure in heart can render such Xn service as the Master requires.

Purity and cleanliness of person the only fit s soil in which to plant the truth and goodness of God.

The standard of purity- the ideal of life which God has given us.

The two mirrors

The one in which one sees his natural self.

The other in one sees himself as reflected in the ideal of life and liberty according to the Gospel of X.

Pure religion and undefiled before oyr God.

The big word in the text is VISIT and KEEP ONESELF

Visit implies personal contact and personal service.
Keep oneslf implies personal purity.

The superiority of Xty's appeal over that of the other religions is in God's personal touch with us thru Jesus Christ.

How we can make our contributions to missions and charities personal.
Thru study and seeking information.

Will there be room in heaven for personal charity?
In heaven will we need to be kind to one another?
No needy ones in heaven.
Our mothers and fathers who did so much for us when we little appreciated them.

What would life be without its personal touches of kindness?
Here on earth it seems to take losses and sufferings and sorrows to awaken within us such a spirit of God's goodness.
In heaven our very well-being and peace and joy will prompt us to still greater degrees of kkndness. We will be more capable in heaven of personal service than we can possibly be here.

We can measure ourselves in all our relationships in terms of God's standard of personal service and purity.
Loved ones in the home- their example and personal helpfulness to us.
Men in business- their personal service to their patrons. Their honesty and integrity.
Friends- how thei act in our times of need.
Sam's blank check.